

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for allowing a user to receive programs desired by said user, said method comprising the steps of:

accepting from said user information pertaining to a program desired to be viewed by said user;

matching by a first content provider other than said user, said accepted information against a list of known programs currently scheduled to be delivered by said first content provider; and

upon a non-match condition making said accepted information available to at least one second content provider, said second content provider being a source separate from said first content provider; and

informing said user as to when ~~said~~ matching programs will be delivered by any said second content provider.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
allowing said user to receive said programs at the informed time.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said program information is selected from the list including future programs, past programs, past events, program concepts, biographies, actors, travelogues, subject matter, movies, concerts, performers, time frames, sitcoms, sports, affinity programs, historical figures, news events, programs not yet scheduled.

4. – 46. (Canceled)

47. (Currently Amended) A method of adjusting recording ~~recording~~ time of an entertainment program, said method comprising:

selecting an entertainment program to be communicated to said user's premises, said program having scheduled start and stop times;

establishing a start and stop time in accordance with said scheduled start and stop times for recording said selected program at said user's premises; and

without action taken by said user, adjusting an established stop time of said established recording time to accommodate subsequent changes in program length.

48. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 47 wherein said changes in program length occur after the start time of said program. ~~further comprising:~~

~~without action taken by said user, adjusting the start time of said recording to match changes in the scheduled transmission time of said program.~~

49. (Canceled)

50. (Currently Amended) A method for allowing a user to receive programs desired by said user, said method comprising:

accepting from said user information pertaining to a program desired to be obtained by said user;

matching, by other than said user, said accepted information against programs that become available for delivery to said user said programs having a start and stop time pertaining to a particular time zone; and

sending program recording instructions from a program transmission source to equipment at said user's premises, said recording instructions operative for establishing a start and stop transmission time for recording said program when said program is transmitted to said user, said established start and stop time dependant upon said user's time zone.

51. – 56. (Canceled)

57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 47 further comprising:
transmitting for recording at said user's premises said selected program in accordance with said established start and stop times.

58. (Canceled)

59. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50 further comprising:
transmitting for recording on said user's equipment matched ones of said programs in accordance with sent ones of said recording instructions.

60. (New) A method for allowing users to electronically receive programs, said method comprising:
accepting by a program transmission source from requesting users information pertaining to a program desired to be received by at least one of said requesting users; and
scheduling by said accepting program transmission source for electronic delivery to said requesting users a specific program matching said accepted information from said users, said specific program only being scheduled and available for electronic delivery by said transmission source to requesting users based upon accepted ones of said information.

61. (New) The method of claim 60 further comprising:
making available by said transmission source to at least one party other than said transmission source at least some of said accepted information pertaining to programs desired to be viewed by said users; and
determining by each of said other parties whether to provide programs to said transmission source that match said made available information.

62. (New) The method of claim 60 further comprising:
transmitting program recording instructions from said program transmission source to equipment at said users' premises, said recording instructions operable for establishing start and stop times for recording said scheduled ones of said specific programs.

63 (New) The method of claim 60 further comprising:
informing each said user as to the time when said program will be electronically delivered to said user.

64. (New) The method of claim 63 further comprising:
adjusting the electronic delivery time to each said user dependant upon that user's
time zone.

65. (New) The method of claim 50 wherein said scheduling further comprises:
interactive communication with at least one of said users to determine if said one user
desires said specific program.

66. (New) A method for providing entertainment programs to a user, said
entertainment programs provided from a service provider and communicated electronically to
requesting ones of said users, said system comprising:

recording user requests for specific information;
matching recorded ones of said requests with entertainment programs scheduled for
electronic communication to users served by said provider;
upon a non-match condition, making at least some of said recorded ones of said user
requests available to a plurality of entertainment providers;
determining under control of any one of said entertainment providers if said
entertainment provider has programs containing specific information that matches a recorded
request from a particular user; and
scheduling a specific program to be delivered to a particular user in response to a
determination that an entertainment provider has available for delivery to said user said
program containing specific information as requested by said particular user.

67. (New) The method of claim 66 further comprising:
negotiating between said particular user and said last-mentioned entertainment
provider to determine whether or not to schedule said specific program.

68. (New) A method for allowing a user to receive desired entertainment programs; said method comprising:

under control of any of a number of potential content providers, reviewing flags set by users, said flags identifying information pertaining to a programs desired to be viewed by said users; and

upon a particular content provider determining that said content provider controls content that matches a flag of a particular user, delivering to said particular user said determined content from said particular content provider.

69. (New) The method of claim 68 wherein said delivering is at a time mutually agreed upon by said particular content provider and said particular user without regard to the time of delivery of said content to any other user.

70. (New) The method of claim 68 wherein said delivering is by setting recording times at a recorder under the physical control of said particular user, said recorder being remote from said particular content provider.

71. (New) The method of claim 68 wherein said delivered content is created by one or more of said potential content providers based, at least in part on said flag information of said particular user.